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#### AFGHAN REFUGEES MOVE INTO PUNJAB

By the end of this month, Islamabad plans to move 5,000 Afghan refugees from overcrowded areas near Bannu in the North-West Frontier Province to a camp in an isolated and barren area near the town of Kalabagh in Punjab Province. According to provincial officials, Governor Jilani has agreed to shelter a maximum of 200,000 Afghan refugees in his province. The refugee population will be evenly divided between two camps, both to be located in Punjab territory west of the Indus River and contiguous to the NWFP.

Comment: The handling of the issue clearly stems from a desire to minimize contact between Punjabis and large groups of ethnically different Afghans. Officials in Lahore and Islamabad are concerned that competition for land, water, and employment between Afghan refugees and Punjabis would turn public opinion in Pakistan's most important province against the government's refugee policies. The population of the Kalabagh area is largely Pushtun. The Punjab Commissioner for Afghan Refugees will report directly to the provincial Home Secretary in Lahore, the official responsible for law and order in the province.

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